

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 11093 210522 Z

15

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /054 W

----- 012216

R 210211 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3475

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11093

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: LTG MINH RECOMMENDS 3 KEY OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 0210

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: LTG MINH RECOMMENDS 3 KEY OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION

1. MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH TOLD ME OVER THE WEEKEND THAT HE HAS ASKED PRESIDENT THIEU TO PROMOTE HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL NGO VAN MINH; THE GIA DINH PROVINCE CHIEF, COLONEL CHAU VAN TIEN; AND HIS PRINCIPAL DEPUTY, BG DAO DUY AN. AN WOULD GET THE SECOND STAR AND BOTH MINH AND TIEN WOULD BE ELEVATED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL. MINH SAID THAT HE IS CONFIDENT PRESIDENT THIEU WILL ACT FAVORABLY ON HIS RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. MINH DID NOT TRY TO HIDE HIS REASONS FOR SUPPORTING TIEN AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. HE SAID THAT, APART FROM HIS VERY OBVIOUS  
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TALENT, HE IS GROOMING HIM TO REPLACE HIS PRINCIPAL DETRACTOR, BG LE VAN TU, THE IRASCIBLE AND UNCONTROLLABLE CG OF THE 25 TH ARVN DIVISION. MINH TOLD ME THAT THE LAST TIME HE MADE A MOVE TO GET RID OF TU HE WAS REBUFFED BY THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE HE ( MINH) HAD PROPOSED THE WRONG MAN POLITICALLY. THIS TIME, HE SAID, HE HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE BECAUSE TIEN IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND TIEN' S WIFE IS VERY CLOSE TO MADAM THIEU. MINH TOLD ME THAT THE LADIES WERE IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESS TOGETHER AND CONTINUE TO SEE EACH OTHER ON A REGULAR BASIS.

3. I ASKED MINH ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN REPLACING HIM IF AND WHEN HE LEAVES THIS MILITARY REGION. MINH SAID THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF LEAVING THE REGION AND THAT, IF HE DID, HE DID NOT THINK THAT AN WOULD BE HIS SUCCESSOR, MAKING THE POINT THAT AN DOES NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY RANK. MINH DID SAY THAT HE WOULD LEAVE IF THE PRESIDENT WERE TO OFFER HIM AN AMBASSADOR' S SLOT. WALKINSHAW  
UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUN 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** LTG MINH RECOMMENDS 3 KEY OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION  
**TAGS:** MILI, VS  
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